



January 12, 2017

KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-17-18

SUBJECT: LTP–Environmental Quality Incentives Program–Fiscal Year 2017 Anderson Creek Wildfire Initiative

Action required by: March 20, 2017 (Field Offices [FOs])
April 21, 2017
May 29, 2017

April 28, 2017 (Area Offices [AOs])
June 16, 2017

Purpose: Provide guidance on administering the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Anderson Creek Wildfire Initiative available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Expiration Date: September 30, 2017

Background

The Anderson Creek Wildfire Initiative is a Kansas Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) effort to assist agricultural producers in remediating resource concerns resulting from the effects of a wildfire that occurred in March of 2016. The wildfire burned over 273,000 acres of grassland in Barber and Comanche Counties in Kansas. In addition to substantial loss of property, producers in the fire footprint are now faced with land that has degraded plant condition and degraded wildlife habitat caused by residual forest slash and undesirable understory canopies. This initiative will provide financial and technical assistance to producers to address degraded plant conditions and wildlife habitat needs on rangeland affected by the wildfire.

Project Location

Fields located in the geographical areas shown in Attachment 1 will be considered for funding. A field is considered to be in the project area if any portion of the field is located in the project area.

EQIP Eligible Land Uses, Resource Concerns, Conservation Practices, and Ranking Criteria.

Eligible Land Uses, Resource Concerns, Conservation Practices, and Ranking Criteria are available in Attachment 2.

EQIP Application Cutoff

Applications can now be taken on a continuous basis throughout the FY. Application evaluation cutoff date for FY2017 is set for **March 17, 2017.**

(more)

DIST: A, F, S, Willhoft

Immediately after the application evaluation cutoff date, applicants requiring eligibility determinations processed by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) (see Title 440-Conservation Program Manual (CPM), Part 512, Subpart C, Section 512.24) will be notified by mail with a Program Eligibility Certification Letter. A template letter can be found in ProTracts or 440-CPM, Part 512, Subpart J, Section 512.91.

The participant must file or update the required certifications within 30 days of receipt of this letter for NRCS to consider the application for funding. If eligibility status of the participant is not updated within the 30 day period, the application will be determined ineligible.

If ineligibility is confirmed, the participant must be notified by certified mail using the Ineligibility Determination for Conservation Program Contract Letter. A template of this letter can be found in ProTracts or in 440-CPM, Part 512, Subpart J, Section 512.93. The application status in ProTracts must be changed to “ineligible”.

ProTracts Application Data

The following ProTracts application data entry is specific to this project:

- **Program** – “EQIP 2014”
- **Application FY** – “2017”
- **Application Type** – “State”
- **FA Fund Code** – “FY17 Anderson Creek Wildfire Initiative”
- **Cost List** – “NGLP”

Deadlines

The following actions will be completed for all eligible applications by **March 20, 2017**:

- Application information entered in ProTracts:
 - Program
 - Application FY
 - Sign-up Date
 - Servicing Office
 - Location County
 - Applicant(s)
 - Application Status (pending, eligible, ineligible, or cancelled)
 - Fund Code
- Applications will be changed to “eligible” status if the following have been completed:
 - All participants entered in Protracts with:
 - Participant AGI certification flag “Y” in ProTracts
 - Participant HEL and WC certification flag “Y” in ProTracts
 - FTE certification flag “Y” in Protracts
 - Required DUNS entered in ProTracts
 - Vender information loaded matching 1199a with “Active” status vendor in ProTracts
 - Signature Authority documentation on file
 - All necessary COL affidavits on file

Applications will remain in “pending” status until all participant and land eligibility requirements have been met. Applications not received by the application cutoff date will be left in “pending” status.

Applications still in “pending” status after **April 21, 2017**, will not be considered for funding during this cutoff period.

Conservation plans will be completed, signed, and uploaded to ProTracts; and applications ranked in ProTracts by **April 21, 2017**. Applications not supported with a participant signed Application Ranking Summary by April 21, 2017 will be changed to pending status and not be considered for funding during the current cutoff period.

Application evaluation peer reviews will be completed by **April 28, 2017**. Assistant state conservationists for field operations (ASTC-FO) shall ensure that all application evaluations (rankings) are peer reviewed (per Title 440-CPM, Part 512, Subpart C, Section 512.25[C][2][iii]) prior to preapproval of applications.

Funding decisions will be completed by the Environmental Quality Initiative Program (EQIP) manager as soon as application peer review has been completed. All approved applications and contract documentation will be entered in the Document Management System (DMS) for second level review of obligation by **May 29, 2017**.

Assistant state conservationists for field operations will ensure all contracts have been obligated in ProTracts by **June 16, 2017**.

Contact: Forward all questions through established channels to Joel A. Willhoft, Resource Conservationist at joel.willhoft@ks.usda.gov or by calling (785) 624-3127.

(signed)

ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist

Attachments